

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 OES-02 DOE-11 SOE-02
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7873
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 07282

LIMDIS

VIENNA FOR USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH FR CH US
SUBJECT: PROSPECTIVE FRENCH NUCLEAR REACTOR SALE TO
PRC

REF: STATE 49621

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: QUAI NUCLEAR CHIEF LOUET TOLD
EMBOFF FRAMATOME REACTOR SALE TO PRC STILL IN PRELIMI-
NARY PHASE. IAEA SAFEGUARDS DIFFICULT SINCE PRC
NOT MEMBER, BUT ASSURANCES POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF MADE POINTS CONTAINED REFTTEL TO MFA
NUCLEAR AFFAIRS DIRECTOR PHILIPPE LOUET.

3. AFTER ACKNOWLEDGING EMBOFF'S POINTS, LOUET STATED
FIRSTLY THAT THE TRANSACTION IS IN A PRELIMINARY
STAGE AND THAT GOF DOES NOT EXPECT THE MATTER TO
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PROGRESS ANY FURTHER FOR A MONTH OR TWO. WHAT THE
GOF IS SEEKING AT THE MOMENT IS A MAXIMUM OF INFORMA-
TION AND INSIGHT ON THE EXPORT CONTROL AND COCOM
ASPECTS OF THE CASE IN ORDER TO PREVENT UNPLEASANT
SURPRISES LATER ON. HE ADDED THAT THE COMMERCIAL
NEGOTIATIONS, ONCE A SALE WERE DECIDED ON, WOULD
TAKE UP TO A YEAR AND INVOLVE SENIOR FRAMATOME AND

GOF OFFICIALS.

4. EVEN THOUGH THE TRANSACTION IS TENTATIVE AS FAR AS THE FRENCH ARE CONCERNED, THE CHINESE NOW HAVE A TEAM OF A DOZEN OR SO EXPERTS IN FRANCE. LOUET DISCLAIMED ANY FURTHER KNOWLEDGE OF THE TEAM SINCE HE WAS NOT INVOLVED WITH ITS PROGRAM, BUT VOLUNTEERED TO EMBOFF THAT HE UNDERSTOOD IT HAD SOME NUCLEAR EXPERTS WHO WERE BEING SHOWN REACTORS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

5. LOUET ALSO STATED HE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS SAME TEAM HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN IN GERMANY, SHOPPING FOR NUCLEAR REACTORS. PART OF THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE TRANSACTION, ADMITTED LOUET, DERIVES FROM THIS GERMAN COMPETITION.

6. WHEN EMBOFF BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION OF FRENCH THINKING ON THE APPLICATION OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS TO THE SALE AND WHETHER FRENCH PLAN RAISE THIS QUESTION

WITH CHINESE, LOUET NOTED THAT THE PRC IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE IAEA AND THAT NEITHER CHINA NOR FRANCE HAVE SIGNED THE NPT. HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO MENTION SPECIFIC IAEA CONTROLS TO THE MAINLAND CHINESE WHEN THE ROC (TAIWAN) CONFIDENTIAL

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IS A MEMBER OF THAT ORGANIZATION. GOING BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE POINT, HE SPECULATED THAT THE PRC WOULD ONLY PARTICIPATE IN THE IAEA IF THE ROC WERE EXPELLED. THIS WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION OF WHAT CONTROLS WOULD BE PUT ON THE NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES IN THE ROC AFTER THAT ORGANIZATION LEFT THE IAEA. ON THE OTHER HAND, LOUET SAID THAT SHOULD THE PROPOSED SALE GO BEYOND ITS PRESENT RATHER PRELIMINARY STAGE, THE GOF WOULD CERTAINLY ASK THE PRC TO COMMIT ITSELF TO USING THE TECHNOLOGY IN QUESTION EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.
HARTMAN

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